

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application are requested.

Applicants have amended the specification to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been added. Applicants have also amended claims 1, 9, 13 and 16, and canceled claims 5 and 15. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-14, and 16-17 remain pending in the application.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner objected to FIG. 7 as having incorrectly switched the elements labeled 241 and 243. Applicants have submitted herewith “Proposed Drawing Corrections” for FIG. 7 to correct the labeling of the reference numerals 241 and 243. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner’s objections to the Drawings have been overcome.

SPECIFICATION

The Examiner objected to Specification at paragraph [0042] as containing a typographical error. By this Amendment, Applicants have corrected the typographical error in paragraph [0042]. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner’s objections to the Specification have been overcome.

35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as lacking proper

antecedent basis. By this Amendment, Applicants have corrected the two typographical errors in claim 13, such that claim 13 now properly depends from claim 12 instead of claim 9, and the word “motor” is now spelled correctly. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner’s rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 has been overcome.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1 has been rewritten to include a feature of the originally-filed claim 5, and claim 9 has also been amended.

Claim 1

The Office Action rejected the originally-filed claim 5 (now claim 1) under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Holmes et al. U.S. Patent 4,627,009 (“Holmes”) in view of Kawashima U.S. Patent No. 5,955,739 (“Kawashima”).

Applicants respectfully traverse that rejection for at least the following reasons.

Among other things, the microscope of claim 1 includes at least two wafer stoppers at a radius distance of a round portion of the semiconductor wafer from a central pivot of the semiconductor wafer. Without limitation, exemplary wafer stoppers are shown in the Drawings as elements 133 in FIGs. 8, 9 and 12.

Applicants respectfully submit that no device including such a feature is disclosed or suggested by Holmes, Kawashima, or any combination thereof.

The Office Action states that such a feature is disclosed by Holmes.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants have reviewed Holmes and do not see any such feature. Inspection of FIGs. 1-6 shows several different representations of pedestals with various different reference numerals (e.g., pedestal 20 in FIGs. 1 and 2; pedestal 84 in FIG. 3, pedestal 84 in FIG. 4, etc.). However in none of these Drawings do Applicants see any indication whatsoever that any of these pedestals are associated with at least two wafer stoppers at a radius distance of a round portion of the semiconductor wafer from a central pivot of the semiconductor wafer. Furthermore, Applicants see no mention in the specification of at least two wafer stoppers at a radius distance of a round portion of the semiconductor wafer from a central pivot of the semiconductor wafer.

Indeed, the Office Action fails to cite a single reference numeral or even a single sentence of text anywhere in Holmes where it believes that such a feature is disclosed.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that no possible combination of Holmes and Kawashima could produce the microscope of claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the microscope of claim 1 is patentable over any combination of Holmes and Kawashima.

Claims 2-3, and 7-8

Claims 2-4 and 6-8 depend from claim 1 and are therefore deemed patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 9

Among other things, the microscope of claim 9 includes at least one wafer

stopper for aligning the semiconductor wafer on the platform.

In similarity to the discussion above with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that no device including such a feature is disclosed or suggested by Holmes, Kawashima, or any combination thereof.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the microscope of claim 9 is patentable over any combination of Holmes and Kawashima.

Claims 10-13, and 16-17

Claims 10-14 and 16-17 depend from claim 9 and are therefore deemed patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 9.

Claims 4, 6 and 14

The Office Action rejected claims 4, 6 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Holmes in view of Kawashima and further in view of An U.S. Patent 5,852,300 (“An”). Claims 4 and 6 depend from claim 1, and claim 16 depends from claim 9. Applicants respectfully submit that An does not remedy the shortcomings of Holmes and Kawashima with respect to claims 1 and 9 as discussed above.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the microscopes of claims 4, 6 and 14 are each patentable over any combination of Holmes, Kawashima, and An.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing explanations, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and reexamine the present application, allow claims 1-4, 6-14,

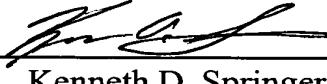
and 16-17, and pass the application to issue. In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Kenneth D. Springer (Reg. No. 39,843) at (703) 715-0870 to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0238 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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